



Serial No. 10/634,692

REMARKS

The Office requires restriction of the claims to one of the following inventions:

Group I, claims 1-2, drawn to a method to measure cellular physiological response via subjecting a cell suspension to electrical impulses;

Group II, claims 4-13, 17-18 and 21-33, drawn to a method to define biological activity of a compound;

Group III, claims 14-16, drawn to a method to determine biological activity in an electric field with two transparent electrodes;

Group IV, claim 19, drawn to a method to determine biological activity of a compound with a fluorescent optical marker;

Group V, claim 20, drawn to a method to determine biological activity of a compound with voltage sensor as the detectable marker;

Group VI, claims 29-33, drawn to a method of identifying the binding site of an inhibitor and method of modifying inhibitor; and

Group VII, claim 34, drawn to a system.

In response, Applicants elect Group II, claims 4-13, 17-18 and 21-33, with traverse. Applicants respectfully submit that, given that each of the claims in the present application regard the measurement of a physiological response wherein an electric field stimulation is provided; wherein said electric field stimulation produces a physiological response; and wherein said physiological response is detected via detection of an optical signal, the search and examination of all of the claims in this application can be made without serious burden on the Office. Applicants therefore request that the Office examine claims 1-34 on the merits, even though they may include claims to independent or distinct inventions.

Applicants acknowledge that the Office has indicated that claim 3 links the inventions of Groups II-V and that "[u]pon the allowance of the linking claims, the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claims depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim[s] will be entitled to examination in the instant application."



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Early consideration and prompt allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. Should the Office require anything further, it is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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